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OWNERS OF PUPPIES NEWLY ADOPTED FROM TENNESSEE'S HAVEN PUPPY RESCUE URGED TO SEE VETERINARIAN, CONTACT STATE AGENCY

BOSTON – Concerned about the health of as many as nine puppies that may have been placed in new homes last weekend in violation of state animal health regulations, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) today urged people who have adopted puppies from The Haven Puppy Rescue of Decatur, Tennessee to immediately have those puppies examined by a veterinarian and to contact MDAR.

MDAR has learned that The Haven Puppy Rescue may have shipped approximately nine puppies into the Commonwealth on Saturday, April 28. The department is concerned that these puppies were not properly isolated to assure that they were healthy and not carrying diseases that could harm the puppies, humans and other pets in the household before they were adopted by Massachusetts families over the weekend. MDAR regulations require that animals brought into Massachusetts from other states be isolated for 48 hours and determined by a veterinarian to be disease-free before being offered for sale or adoption.

As part of an ongoing investigation into the cause of disease among puppies brought into Massachusetts for sale or adoption by The Haven Puppy Rescue, MDAR's Bureau of Animal Health has issued an order requiring the Tennessee rescue operation to "cease and desist immediately the importation of, adoption of, sale of, give away of or transfer of puppies into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

State officials urge anyone who received a puppy from The Haven Puppy Rescue last weekend or anytime in April 2007 to bring the puppy to a veterinarian to assure that it is healthy and free of disease. Owners of Haven Puppy Rescue puppies are also asked to contact MDAR at 617-626-1795 to provide further information regarding the shipment of these puppies and to ensure the health of these pets in their new homes.

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